

# **Coalition in Support of Expanded Gaming in Maryland Announces Name Change**

***“Maryland Workers for National Harbor Inc.” Reflects Broadening  
Support Among Coalition of Influential Labor Organizations***

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ANNAPOLIS, Md. // The coalition in support of expanded gaming in Maryland and a destination resort casino at National Harbor announced today a new name that reflects the growing support among a broad base of state labor organizations.

The “Building Trades for National Harbor Inc.” – a registered 501c4 in Maryland – is changing its name to “Maryland Workers for National Harbor Inc.” The legal paperwork required for the name change is in the midst of being prepared and filed, and the advertising in support of expanded gaming will be changed over the coming days to reflect the coalition’s new name.

“In February, when County Executive Rushern Baker announced his bold proposal for a destination resort casino at National Harbor, we were proud to step up and take the lead in advocating for thousands of new good-paying union jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in new state and local revenues,” said Vance T. Ayres, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Washington DC Building Trades Council, representing over 25,000 members and their families.

“As the discussions have moved forward, we have been honored to be joined by so many strong partners who share our commitment to creating jobs and revenues and ensuring that Maryland remains competitive with our surrounding states,” Ayres said. “We think it is time for our coalition’s name to more clearly reflect the fact that this is about more than just the Building Trades. This is about all Maryland working families who want to see good jobs and significant new dollars for our children’s education and other critical state services.”

The Gaylord National Resort and Conference Center already employs 1,200 members of UNITE HERE Local 25, and John Boardman, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of UNITE HERE Local 25, said union members look forward to the creation of more good-paying jobs with benefits through the Prince George’s County resort casino proposal.

“The thousands of jobs that would come from this proposal – both in Prince George’s County, and at all of Maryland’s gaming facilities through the expansion of table games – are exactly what the state needs to create an economic boost,” said Local 25’s Boardman.

“We have been pleased to be engaged in this coalition effort to support allowing Maryland voters to decide this fall on the question of expanding gaming,” Boardman said.

“For our unions, this effort is a top priority for us, and we intend to continue to communicate that message strongly and loudly to members of the General Assembly, Governor O’Malley and the voters of Maryland.”

Nonpartisan state budget analysts project that an expansion of gaming would create hundreds of millions of dollars in new revenue for Maryland’s education trust fund and critical state and local government services.

“There is an opportunity here for us to provide for long-term revenue growth for Maryland by modifying our gaming program and ensuring our state remains competitive with other neighboring states,” said Patrick Moran, director of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees in Maryland. “That means approving a referendum now, and putting it to the voters this fall. If we wait, we will fall further behind the other states and lose out on hundreds of millions of dollars of revenue and the creation of thousands of new jobs.”

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